

July 30, 2003

Docket No.: DP-301665 (7500/249)

Serial No.: 10/052,240

Filed: January 17, 2002

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**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 22 through page 6, line 3 with:

"It comprises a closed casing 2 in which is arranged a diaphragm 4 defining a front chamber 6 provided with means 8 for connection to a vacuum source (not shown) and a back chamber 10 in which there is a variable pressure. The central part of the diaphragm 4 is mounted on a piston 12 sliding axially in the casing 2 in a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of separation of this casing 2 by said diaphragm 4. A diaphragm support 44 15 having the general shape of a cup is fixed rigidly to the piston 12 and extends radially from this. The piston 12 has first and second annular and co-axial bearing surfaces 14 and 16 turned towards the front of chamber 6. The first bearing surface 14, of diameter  $D_2$ , is arranged to the rear of the second bearing surface 16, of diameter  $D_3$ , in the direction of the arrow F1, i.e. in the direction of the front chamber. The advantage of these bearing surfaces will become apparent on reading the remainder of the description."

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 7, line 17 through page 7, line 20 with:

"In this state a pressure difference exists between the back chamber 10 and front chamber 6, and the diaphragm 4 is applied to the diaphragm support 44 15, thus transmitting to the piston 12 a thrust force corresponding to the pressure difference, oriented in the direction of the arrow F1."

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Please replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 4 through page 11, line 11 with:

"The pressure on the inner surface 98 applies a thrust force in the direction of the arrow F2 to the sleeve 86 which is displaced, when this exceeds a threshold, in opposition to the conical washer 90 in the direction F2. This displacement of the sleeve creates inside the sleeve and around the end of the piston 70 an annular cavity 104 (~~Fig. 4~~) (Fig. 3), filled by the material displaced the deformations of the reaction disc 96. It will consequently be understood that progressively as the input force increases the sleeve 86 is displaced towards the piston 70 and that the distance X decreases.